

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (ORIGINAL) A profiling surface for a bed or trolley comprising a frame supporting the surface, the surface having at least a back section and a thigh section, the back and thigh sections pivotally connected to the frame for movement from a horizontal position to a raised position, control means driving actuators to profile the sections, the control means raising the back and thigh sections simultaneously from a flat position until they reach a substantially equivalent angle, the thigh section remaining in that position and the back section continuing to be raised until it reaches its maximum condition, and for return of the sections to the flat position, the control means initially only lowering the back section until it reaches a substantially equivalent position to the thigh section position, and then simultaneously lowering both the back and thigh sections to the flat position.
2. (ORIGINAL) A profiling surface for a bed or trolley as claimed in claim 1 wherein at higher angles of profile any adjustments only result in adjustments to the back section angle.
3. (ORIGINAL) A profiling surface for a bed or trolley as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1 wherein the actuators driving the back and thigh sections each have limit switches to detect their fully extended condition and their fully retracted condition respectively, the back section actuator further provided with a third integrated limit switch between the two end of travel limit switches, the third limit switch position substantially equating to the fully extended condition of the thigh actuator.
4. (ORIGINAL) A profiling surface for a bed or trolley as claimed in claim 3 wherein when the back section actuator is in the zone between the third limit switch and its fully extended limit switch, any adjustment of the profile angle only results in actuation of the back section actuator and not the thigh section actuator.
5. (CANCELED)

6. (NEW) A profiling surface for a bed or trolley comprising:
- (i) a frame supporting the profiling surface;
 - (ii) a back section pivotally connected to the frame, the back section including a back section actuator drivable to angularly incline the back section between horizontal and non-horizontal positions;
 - (iii) a thigh section pivotally connected to the frame, the thigh section including a thigh section actuator drivable to angularly incline the thigh section between horizontal and non-horizontal positions;

wherein:

- a. during an auto-contour raise command issued by a user, the actuators are controlled to:
 - (1) simultaneously pivotally raise the back and thigh sections toward each other if the back and thigh sections are each between a respective lowermost inclination and a respective intermediate inclination greater than the lowermost inclination;
 - (2) raise the back section, without raising the thigh section, if the back section is between its intermediate inclination and a maximum elevation; and
- b. during an auto-contour lower command issued by a user, the actuators are controlled to:
 - (1) lower the back section, without lowering the thigh section, if the back section is between its maximum inclination and its intermediate inclination;
 - (2) simultaneously pivotally lower the back and thigh sections away from each other if the back and thigh sections are each between their respective intermediate elevations and their respective lowermost inclinations.

7. (NEW) The profiling surface of claim 6 wherein the angular inclination of the back section at the intermediate inclination of the back section is at least substantially equal to the angular inclination of the thigh section at the intermediate inclination of the thigh section.
8. (NEW) The profiling surface of claim 7 wherein the angular inclination of the back section at the lowermost inclination of the back section is at least substantially equal to the angular inclination of the thigh section at the lowermost inclination of the thigh section.
9. (NEW) The profiling surface of claim 6 wherein the actuators are incapable of raising the thigh section past its intermediate inclination
10. (NEW) The profiling surface of claim 6 further comprising:
 - a. back section limit switches triggered upon inclination of the back section to each of its lowermost inclination, intermediate inclination, and maximum elevation; and
 - a. thigh section limit switches triggered upon inclination of the thigh section to each of its lowermost inclination and intermediate inclination.
11. (NEW) The profiling surface of claim 10 wherein the actuators are incapable of inclining the thigh section between the triggering of the back section limit switches at the intermediate inclination of the back section and the maximum elevation of the back section.
12. (NEW) The profiling surface of claim 6 further comprising a single inclination control, such as a single button, which receives the user-issued auto-contour raise command and the user-issued auto-contour lower command.

13. (NEW) The profiling surface of claim 6 wherein, during an auto-contour raise or lower command issued by a user, the actuators are controlled to maintain the back and thigh sections in at least substantially equivalent angular inclinations if the back and thigh sections are each between their respective lowermost and intermediate inclinations.
14. (NEW) A method for actuating a profiling surface for a bed or trolley, wherein:
- (i) the bed or trolley includes a frame supporting the profiling surface,
 - (ii) the profiling surface includes a back section pivotally connected to the frame, the back section including at least one back section actuator drivable to angularly incline the back section between horizontal and non-horizontal positions,
 - (iii) the profiling surface includes a thigh section pivotally connected to the frame, the thigh section including at least one thigh section actuator drivable to angularly incline the thigh section between horizontal and non-horizontal positions,
- the method comprising the steps of:
- a. during an auto-contour raise command issued by a user, commanding the actuators to:
 - (1) simultaneously pivotally raise the back and thigh sections toward each other if the back and thigh sections are each between a respective lowermost inclination and a respective intermediate inclination greater than the lowermost inclination; and
 - (2) raise the back section, without raising the thigh section, if the back section is between its intermediate inclination and a maximum elevation; and
 - b. during an auto-contour lower command issued by a user, commanding the actuators to:
 - (1) lower the back section, without lowering the thigh section, if the back section is between its maximum inclination and its intermediate inclination;
 - (2) simultaneously pivotally lower the back and thigh sections away from each other if the back and thigh sections are each between their respective intermediate elevations and their respective lowermost inclinations.

15. (NEW) The method of claim 14 wherein the angle of the back section at the intermediate elevation for the back section is at least substantially equivalent to the angle of the thigh section at the intermediate elevation for the thigh section.
16. (NEW) The method of claim 14 wherein the angle of the back section at the lowermost elevation for the back section is at least substantially equivalent to the angle of the thigh section at the lowermost elevation for the thigh section.
17. (NEW) The method of claim 14 wherein auto-contour raise command and auto-contour lower command are user-actuated from a single inclination control, such as a single button.
18. (NEW) The profiling surface of claim 14 wherein, during an auto-contour raise or lower command issued by a user, the actuators are controlled to maintain the back and thigh sections in at least substantially equivalent angular inclinations if the back and thigh sections are each between their respective lowermost and intermediate inclinations.